

Serial No.: 10/711,161
Confirmation No.: 5160
Applicant: HEDENSTIERNA, Johan
Atty. Ref.: 7589.188.PCUS00

REMARKS:

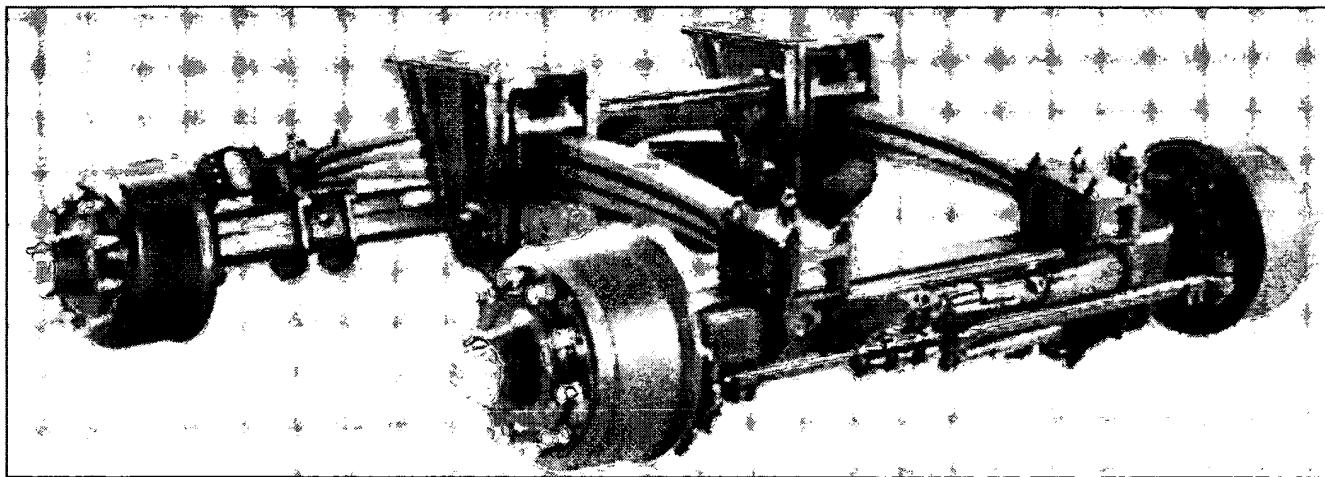
THE CLAIMS:

Claims 5, 6 and 14 have been cancelled, without disclaimer or prejudice to later prosecution, but presently obviating the objection to the drawings.

The claims have been amended to clarify and expressly claim a bearing support for a bogie-type vehicle. In furtherance of this clarification, it has been specified that the bracket (2) is configured for fixed attachment to the vehicle thereby clarifying the environment/setting of the claimed method and arrangement. As will be discussed in greater detail below, these amendments support the non-analogous nature of leaf-spring, eye-end supports (see DT '864) and supports for leaf-spring arrangements on bogie-type or style vehicles.

THE FIELD OF THE INVENTION:

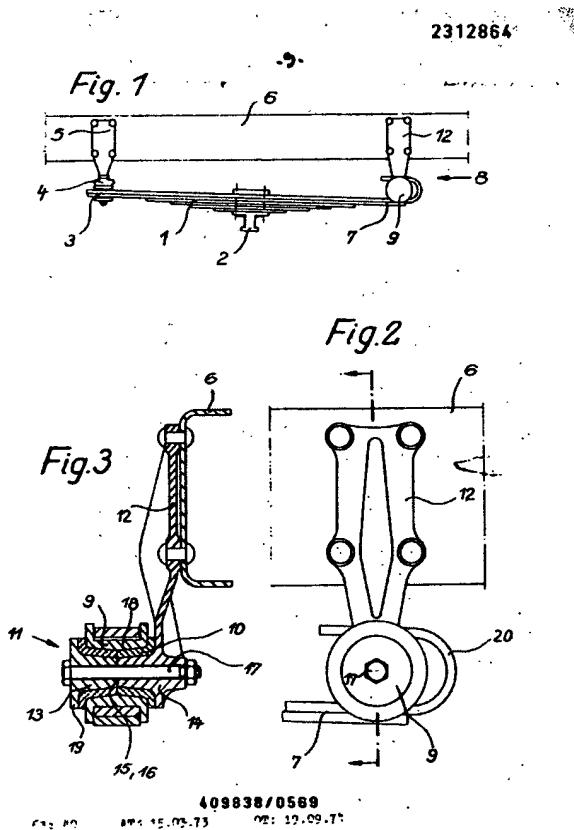
As amended, the claims presently expressly recite the limitations of a bogie vehicle (as opposed to merely being cited in the preamble). This being said, the field of the invention is thereby clarified as being bogie-type or style supports. The following illustration of a bogie support clearly conveys its uniqueness among vehicle suspensions.¹



¹ The photo-illustration is of a bogie suspension utilized for agricultural equipment.

As may be appreciated from this photo-illustration, two axles are supported on a pair of "bundled" leaf-spring arrangements. Each set of bundled leaf-springs are secured near their mid-section by an assembly analogous to Applicant's claimed arrangement (1) {See especially Fig. 2 of the present application}. Though different in appearance, the top surface of each arrangement (1) constitutes a bracket (2) configured for fixed attachment to the carrying vehicle, as now claimed by Applicant.

As will be discussed in greater detail hereinbelow, the support of DT '864 which is asserted as basis for these claims' rejection is in fact an end-eye support for a leaf-spring in a conventional implementation on a vehicle. For ease in comparison, the drawings from that German Document are reproduced immediately below.



IN RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION:

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response, the claims have been amended regarding the specific concerns indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Applicant submits that the above amendments obviate the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and thus ask that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims and indicate their allowance in the next paper from the Office.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DT-2312864 (DT '864) in view of Bourgeot US 5271678 (Bourgeot '678).

As the illustrations above help to point up, the bearing arrangement of DT '864 is in fact not "for mounting the spring suspension for a leaf-spring-supported bogie on a vehicle", but instead the referenced arrangement is for fixing the end-eye of a conventional leaf-spring upon a vehicle frame. As may be further appreciated from the illustrations above, the end-eye attachment of the conventional leaf-spring of DT '864 is not suitable for use on a bogie leaf-spring as illustrated in the photograph. As explained in the background section of the present application, because of unique stresses and torques experienced in bearing supports for bogie-type vehicles, it is clear that end-eye bearing supports for a leaf-spring are not suitable. Therefore, it can not be said that there is either disclosure, suggestion or a teaching for combining a bearing arrangement for the end-eye support (DT '864) with an "articulation design necessary in the type of integrated railway train known as an "articulated train," while simplifying the coupling and uncoupling operations of adjacent two vehicles of the train. (column 7, lines 7-11 of Bourgeot '678.

In view of the above, Applicant requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

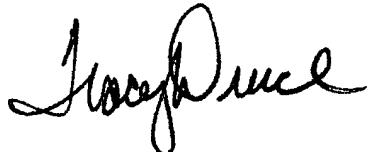
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The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, Order No. 7589.188.PCUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner should directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,



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